

In City Life —
 Stellar awards honors
 the best in gospel music
 Page B2



In Artz —
 Bernie shows Newark
 why he's the Mac of
 comedy
 Page B5



In Sports —
 Serena Williams and
 Andre Agassi get "luv"
 from Bill Clinton
 Page B8



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**Clinton,
Gore plan
to close
'digital divide'**



President Bill Clinton



Vice President Al Gore

WASHINGTON — A com-
 ponent of President Clinton's New
 Market Initiative — the "digital
 divide" or "racial ravine," is an area
 which six years ago the president
 and Vice President Gore pledged to
 build a National Information
 Infrastructure.

Under construction, this infra-
 structure is designed to be the
 "backbone" for the nation's econo-
 my and communications system,
 according to the U.S. Department
 of Commerce's Assistant
 Secretary for Communications and
 Information, Larry Irving.

"The New Markets Initiatives
 will help ensure that the benefits
 of our information economy extend
 to all areas, whether rural or
 urban, affluent or poor," said
 Irving. "Falling Through the Net
 is an important tool that will help
 us determine which Americans
 have access to those technologies,
 and which do not. The good news is
 that more Americans are connect-
 ed than ever before. Computer
 ownership has nearly doubled in
 four years, and Internet access has
 increased more than 40 percent
 in the last year."

Today, more than one-quarter
 of American households have
 Internet access at home.

However, the troubling news is
 the digital divide that exists
 between the rich and poor. Blacks
 and Hispanics have significantly
 less access to the Internet from any
 location (including work, home, or
 school) than Whites do just at
 home. The data from the NTIA
 report revealed this: 19 percent of
 Blacks and 16.6 percent of
 Hispanics have Internet access
 from any point, compared to 26.7
 percent of Whites using the
 Internet at home. Ninety percent
 of Blacks and Hispanics do not
 have Internet access at home. And
 80 percent of Blacks and Hispanics
 do not have access to the Internet
 from any point at any part of any
 day of their lives.

Clinton has announced several
 major initiatives to bridge the
 divide with the support of major
 corporations such as AT&T,
 America Online, and Lucent
 Technologies.

Telecommunications and
 Information Infrastructure
 Assistance Program (TIAP) will
 play a key role in expanding access
 to computers and the Internet,
 according to Irving.

The president and vice presi-
 dent have also been talking about
 expanding community technology
 centers throughout the United
 States with these centers, the gap
 seen now will be made narrow.

"Of course, government alone
 cannot bridge the divide," said
 Irving. "We need the ongoing assis-
 tance of non-profit organizations
 and private industries to expand
 access to new technologies and to
 train Americans. The initiatives
 that President Clinton has un-
 veiled will go far in achieving
 both goals."

White terror on eve of Y2K

White Supremacist groups to target African-Americans, Jewish, Hispanics, Asian

WASHINGTON, D.C.—According to
 a recent report released by the FBI entitled
 "Project Megiddo," a potential threat of
 violence may occur on the eve of the new
 millennium. It was speculated that
 groups such as the World Church of the
 Creator a.k.a. KKK, Black Hebrew
 activists and the Aryan Nation a.k.a.
 white supremacists will be the main per-
 petrators of violent acts. World Church of
 the Creator and Black Hebrew activists
 are reported to be preparing to launch a
 holy war separating church and govern-
 ment on the eve of 2000. The Aryan
 nation (Hitler's Nazi followers) was
 reported to be preparing to shoot and kill

any non-whites in sight at the dawn of the
 new millennium. The reason for this story
 is because the Washington, DC, Metro-
 politan area (which includes VA, and
 MD) has been targeted as well as
 Atlanta, GA, Chicago, IL, Los Angeles,
 CA, Philadelphia, PA, Miami, FL, Boston,
 MA, and Seattle, WA, and Detroit, MI.
 These are areas where most of these violent
 acts are reported to occur because
 many government institutions are housed
 there (including F.B.I. headquarters and
 the White House on Pennsylvania Ave.,
 etc.) And other state and local govern-
 ment buildings in the cities listed. Another
 reason these areas are a target is

also because many African-Americans,
 Jewish, Hispanics and Asian descendants
 make up the majority of the population in
 these areas. It is reported that any blacks,
 other minorities groups or interracial
 couples seen out after 12:00 a.m. will
 be killed.

The report, which comes across as a
 warning—be careful this New Years Eve,
 there are some crazy people out there.
 How serious should people take this? Well,
 a local radio station (V-103) devoted two
 hours of their morning show to this threat.
 There was an alleged incident (which
 the F.B.I. is also investigating) in which a
 Black man fishing along the

Chattahoochee River was abducted by
 white males, tied up, mouth taped and
 note taped to his body, which stated
 something to the effect of, "this is just the
 beginning of what's to come in Y2K."
 Fortunately, they didn't kill the man... he
 was interviewed by a producer at the
 radio station.

Whatever you decide to do to celebrate
 the New Year, according to this very
 detailed report, be careful and watch your
 surroundings, especially since no one
 knows how the Y2K bug will effect things.
 It's being touted as a "Holy War" threat
 and nothing will be known for sure until
 the eve of the millennium.

Newark 'Lights It up'



Mayor Sharpe James celebrates at tree lighting ceremony at Military Park with Rip/Rip Newark Bears mascot and Sly NJ Nets mascot. Photo by Pablo Tino

'A citizen not a politician,' Corzine stumps in Newark

By Chris Sykes
 Correspondent

NEWARK —Jon S. Corzine,
 self-made man and candidate for
 the United States Senate, was in
 Newark getting in touch with
 potential constituents and making
 his fundraising rounds for the year
 2000 campaign, at two events.

Corzine's first appearance was
 at the jubilee service at Newark's
 United Freedom Baptist Church in
 memory of Rev. Dr. Isaac Martin
 Jr., on Dec. 12, and the second was
 a fundraising event held at the
 New Jersey Performing Arts
 Center, the following evening. He
 attempted to get the point of his
 candidacy across to voters and the
 economic and political movers and
 shakers in the state's largest city.

If the initial reaction to
 Corzine's platform, by this one
 constituency was any indication of
 him drumming up favorable sup-

port, then it would seem his mis-
 sion was accomplished.

"I thought it was quite enlight-
 ening that the candidate decided to
 come to church to address the con-
 gregation on many of the issues
 that he is using for his platform,"
 said Dr. Rose Campbell, the princi-
 pal at Bergen Street School, who
 was an honored guest at the
 church. "I also thought it was
 important that he made a commit-
 ment, not only before he is elected
 but hopefully once he is elected, to
 come back and play a vital role in
 supporting the needs of the com-
 munity." Smaller classrooms, affir-
 mative action, and more access to
 technology, were important issues
 Corzine stressed that appealed to
 Campbell. However, other mem-
 bers of the congregation were not
 as easily won over.

"Before I heard him speak I
 had reservations about him, said
 Texanna Thompson, a minister at

the church. "I, too, am an educator
 and that's important. But I also
 heard what he had to say about
 health care and that also is an
 issue, because we have young chil-
 dren coming into school with very
 poor health. Anyone who is willing
 to fight that battle, I am for 100
 percent. I will go forth and tell oth-
 ers about him."

Using the slogan "It's time to
 get bold things done," Corzine did
 just that at Unity Freedom Baptist
 Church, where he was lauded from
 the pulpit and congregation. He
 said the event was the first time he
 had ever addressed a Christian
 congregation in his life.

"I'm a citizen, not a politician
 and I want to be an advocate for a
 fair, inclusive society," he said.
 Then addressing America's charac-
 ter flaw — poverty — Corzine said,
 "If the United States government
 can create and build the Internet,
 it can rebuild our cities."



Jon Corzine Photo by Chris Sykes

Senior minister, Rev. Cornelius
 Wesley Martin said, "Jon Corzine
 exemplifies the spirit of my father."
 While Newark native, Nathaniel
 Latta, was so moved by the candi-
 date that he is considering working
 for his campaign as a volunteer.

Although a reception setting,
 the cocktail reception held at

'Justice delayed is justice denied' in Diallo case

By Gloria Dulan-Wilson
 Staff Writer

The New York State judiciary
 system given new meaning to the
 phrase "justice delayed is justice
 denied."

Through a change of venue
 made the trial is being relocated
 to Albany, under the claim that
 the four police officers would not
 get a fair trial in the Bronx court-
 house.

The trial was set to begin in
 January 2000. It should be noted
 that Albany is 87 percent white,
 meaning there would be few to no
 Black or people of color among the
 jurors.

According to news reports, it
 would be virtually impossible to
 render a verdict of guilty against
 the four policemen under such
 circumstances.

Needless to say, the Rev. Al
 Sharpton and the Diallo family are
 outraged at this latest turn of
 events. They have asked the fed-
 eral government to intervene, but
 it is highly unlikely that they will
 do so at this late stage.

The tragic killing of African
 immigrant Amadou Diallo by four
 undercover police last February,
 which sparked controversy and
 outrage throughout the nation
 and Africa. During the spring,
 the Rev. Al Sharpton led a series
 of demonstrations in front of One
 Police Plaza in Manhattan to
 ensure the policemen involved
 would be tried for murder. He
 was joined by several celebrities
 who allowed themselves to be
 arrested in a show of support for
 the Diallo family, who had
 arrived here from Africa, first to
 reclaim their son's body and
 return it home for a proper funeral.
 They too, were demanding jus-
 tice for the senseless killing, in
 which 19 of 41 bullets riddled his
 body.

Sharpton, along with Rev.
 Herbert Daughtry, Ms. Diallo and
 other leaders, convened on the
 steps of the Bronx courthouse to
 express outrage and concern.

According to one member of
 the group, "This was engineered
 between Mayor Rudy Giuliani
 and Police Commissioner Howard
 Safir, with the cooperation of the
 governor. It's a conspiracy to
 deprive the Black community of
 justice, by having the trial held
 before an all white jury where the
 people support the police, and
 don't care about the life of an
 innocent, hardworking Black
 man. It's impossible to get a
 conviction there."

"They'll just whitewash every-
 thing," Sharpton stated. "To say
 that the Bronx jurors would not
 be trusted to render a fair verdict
 is an insult to the community.
 They moved the trial to Albany to
 avoid dealing with the community
 and the truth."

Whether or not a change of
 venue can be overturned is some-
 thing the Diallo family lawyers
 are currently examining.

Corzine Continued on A8

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

NEW YORK — The Morgenthaler-Fredricks Art Gallery showcases the work of photographer Katsumi Ohmura. Call (212) 226-5577 for information.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Museum of the American Hungarian Foundation presents its 11th Annual Festival of Trees. 11 a.m. (732) 846-5777.

JERSEY CITY — The Jersey City Museum presents the art work of painter Freddy Rodriguez. Call (201) 547-5524 for information.

NEWARK — The Newark Museum hosts a holiday planetarium feature entitled "Tis the Season" through Dec. 31. 1 p.m. (973) 596-6638.

LINCROFT — The Monmouth County Park System offers a cross country ski clinic for new skiers at Thompson Park. 3:30 p.m. (732) 842-4000.

TRENTON — The New Jersey State Museum presents a holiday laser show of the "Nutcracker" through Dec. 30. Call (609) 292-6454.

ORANGE — The Essex County Clerk Office offers a cross country ski clinic for new skiers at Thompson Park. 3:30 p.m. (973) 596-6638.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center hosts a discussion on current events happening around the world. 10:30 a.m. (908) 753-3506.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ-PAC) presents "The Nutcracker" by Ballet production of "Nutcracker On Ice" through Dec. 23. 7:30 p.m. (1-888-GO-NJ-PAC).

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

MONTCLAIR — The Essex County Clerk Office hosts its county outreach meeting at Montclair Municipal Building. 4 p.m. (973) 621-4921.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

NEWARK — The Newark Museum hosts a fun family workshop in creating calendars for the new millennium. 1 p.m. (973) 596-6638.

ISLIN — SingleFACES, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Woodbridge Hilton. 8 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

SADDLE BROOK — SingleFACES, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Saddle Brook Marriott. 8 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

ISLIN — SingleFACES, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Woodbridge Sheraton. 9 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

EAST RUTHERFORD — The Meadowlands Race Track opens its doors to the public for live harness racing. Free admission. Call (201) 843-2445 for information.

NEWARK — The Newark Museum hosts a fun family workshop in creating calendars for the new millennium. 1 p.m. (973) 596-6638.

MORRISTOWN — The Morris Museum presents its holiday production of "A Storybook Holiday." 11 a.m. (973) 538-5059.

EDISON — SingleFACES, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Clarion Edison. 8 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

MORRISTOWN — The Morris Museum presents "The Amazing Maze," an interactive puzzle for adults and children that offers unique opportunities for exploring. A walk through all the museum's main gallery. Call (973) 538-0454 for information.

MILLBURN — The Essex County Clerk Office hosts its county outreach meeting at the Millburn Police Department. 1 p.m. (973) 621-4921.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

WEST ORANGE — The Maurice Levin Theatre presents eight classic tales in "Aesop's Fables-Puppets." Call (973) 736-3200 for information.

BELLEVILLE — The Essex County Clerk Office hosts its county outreach meeting at the Belleville Public Library. 6:30 p.m. (973) 621-4921.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center hosts a birthday party for seniors born in December. 1:30 p.m. (908) 753-3506.

CRANFORD — Union County College hosts its 20th Annual Owl and Lady Owl Classic, a two day series of games pitting several community college basketball teams against each other in competitive play for the championship. Call (908) 769-7501 for information.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

NEWARK — The Newark Museum

hosts a fun family workshop on ancient Chinese pottery. Through Dec. 31. 1 p.m. (973) 596-6638.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

MONTCLAIR — The Essex County Clerk Office hosts its county outreach meeting at the Montclair Municipal Building. 4 p.m. (973) 621-4921.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEWARK — SingleFACES, Inc. hosts a New Year's Eve singles function at the Newark Airport Hilton. 9 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

NEWARK — "First Night Newark 2000" brings residents together to welcome the new millennium with arts, music, and dance at several sites in the downtown area. Call (973) 643-7502 for information.

OCEAN GROVE — The City of Ocean Grove celebrates its "First Night" celebration at several sites including The Great Auditorium. Call 1-(800) 386-4763 for information.

FREEDHOLD BORO — The Freedhold Boro presents its Kwanzaa Celebration at Court St. School. Call (732) 946-2711 for information.

TOMS RIVER — "First Night Ocean County, Inc." is the annual New Year's Eve event that brings the community together to usher in the new year at several sites in downtown Toms River. Call (732) 286-1889 for information.

RIDGEWOOD — "Ridgewood First Night 2000" is a night of clean fun to usher in the new year throughout the downtown area. Call (201) 447-1739 for information.

MONTCLAIR — "First Night Montclair" uses arts to celebrate the community and the new year at various locations. Call (973) 744-3427 for information.

WESTFIELD — "First Night Westfield 2000" is a New Year's Eve celebration with entertainment for families and people of all ages at the downtown business district. Call (908) 918-2893 for information.

SUMMIT — "First Night Summit" welcomes in the new millennium with music, dance, comedy, magic, and fireworks at midnight. Call (908) 522-1722 for information.

RED BANK — "First Night Red Bank 2000" is a night of fun and good time with fireworks at midnight at the downtown district. Call (732) 830-2781 for information.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theatre presents "A Century Song," a look at the songs that have graced the Broadway stage for the last century. Call (732) 246-7469 for information.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

ATLANTIC CITY — The Atlantic City Arts Center presents an art exhibit of ancient Asian Art. Call (609) 347-5637 for information.

MONDAY, JANUARY 3

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Zimmert Art Museum at Rutgers University hosts a reporting party featuring ancient Japanese art work. Call (732) 532-7237 for information.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN — The Northeast Regional Horse Show is the number one rated horse show for hunters, jumpers and equitation for all ages. The event takes place at the Snowbird Acres Farm. Call (908) 876-4200 for information.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

LINCROFT — The Monmouth County Park System offers a clinic in cross country skiing at Thompson Park.

EDISON — The Garden State Outdoor Sportsman Show is a sportsman's dream with items for fishing, boating and hunting at the New Jersey Convention & Expo Center. Call 1-(800)-246-7469 for information.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

NEWARK — Unique Travel Club hosts a "Millennium 2000 Winter Gateway Ski Trip" to Hudson Valley Resort in Catskills, NY through Jan. 16. Call (973) 736-1913 ext. 352 for information.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

NEW YORK — Kids Night On Broadway offers each adult who purchases a full price ticket to Broadway show one free ticket for a child aged 6-16. The Broadway Line at 1-888-broadway, or 212-302-4111.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

NEWARK — 1,000 Friends Education Policy Luncheon returns to the Newark Club with special guest speaker Justice Alan Handler. 12 p.m. (973) 621-6631.

First Lady of the North Pole visits NJ hospitals



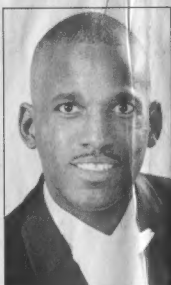
NEWARK — The First Lady of the North Pole has her sights on New Jersey. Mrs. Claus recently teamed up with Coca-Cola to pay a surprise visit to two area hospitals, the Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center (shown here) and the Hackensack Medical Center where she spent the afternoon reading holiday stories to the children. Each child received a new book, donated by employees of the Coca-Cola Sales Center in Carlstadt.

Students show goodwill gestures in Jersey City



JERSEY CITY — In the spirit of the holiday season, members of Girl Scout Troop #6333 at A. Harry Moore School in Jersey City recently filled, wrapped and decorated Thanksgiving baskets and donated them to St. Joseph's Home Soup Kitchen. Among the girl scouts who posed with their creations were (from the left) Callista Martin, Tyannna Brinson, Jacqueline Clares, Taylor Cole, and sister Denise Cole. The Troop, which used baskets donated by The Body Shop and fruit given by the 14th Street Market in Jersey City, gave over 70 baskets to the Soup Kitchen.

Soumas leads prominent choir



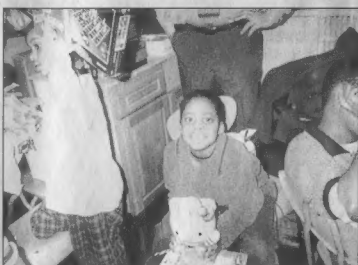
PLAINFIELD — Donovan F. Soumas, the newly appointed Artistic Director for Ric-Charles Choral Ensemble, Inc., recently conducted its 20th Annual Holiday Concert at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield. Soumas joins the Ric-Charles family as its fourth Artistic Director in their twenty year choral journey. He holds a music performance degree from Centenary College of Louisiana and is pursuing a Master's Degree in Music Therapy. During the past three years, Soumas has been the Newark Boys Chorus School concert musician and piano lab instructor. He has traveled extensively with the chorus including their South African and Caribbean tours. He is also a vocal coach and piano instructor at the Montclair Music Studio. The Ric-Charles Choral Ensemble is a Plainfield based mixed choral group of thirty voices.

Boys & Girls Club America honors Banda as top youth



Recently the Boys & Girls Clubs of America (B&GCA) held its Congressional Breakfast in Washington, D.C. During the breakfast, the National Youth of the Year award went to Martin Banda (center) of Harlingen, Texas for his outstanding work as a student and involvement in the community. Academy Award winning actor and spokesman Denzel Washington (left) and General Colin Powell, both board members, presented the award to Banda.

Santa brings gifts to the children of Project 2000



NEWARK — Deliah Bukle (center) of Project 2000 at Alexander Street School was surprised to learn Santa knew that she had been very good this school year. Here she admires her pizza making machine and bead making kit. Santa arrived at Alexander Street School recently to give out gifts to the sixty-two children of Project 2000. This was the sixth year that he had visited the school, courtesy of the employees of the NJ Highway Authority which oversees the Garden State Parkway. Project 2000 is a program where male mentors assist the teachers throughout the calendar year in the classroom.

Even Santa has to check CITY NEWS to see who's naughty and who's nice



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NATIONAL BRIEF

REP. WATERS HOLDS SPECIAL CENSUS MEETING

(NNPA) — U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) and U.S. Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt recently joined forces in Los Angeles for a special Census 2000 meeting. Sponsored by the African American Civil Rights Complete Count Committee for Census 2000, the meeting provided information on the resources available to nonprofit and community organizations working to ensure a complete count.

Beyond the importance of the count to fair political representation in Congress and in state legislatures, Census figures are the basis for the distribution of funds for a variety of programs including housing, community and economic development, transportation, job training and low-income home-energy assistance.

RADIO'S TOM JOYNER HONORED BY OLENDER FOUNDATION

(NNPA) — Tom Joyner, host of radio's syndicated Tom Joyner Morning Show, was recently awarded the Generous Heart 2000 award from the Oleander Foundation for creating the Tom Joyner Foundation that assists students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and for using the airways to mobilize the community to affect change.

Joyner joined other foundation honorees: actor Christopher Reeve and NAACP Legal Defense and Education President Elaine R. Jones in Washington, D.C. at the Kennedy Center for the annual presentation hosted by malpractice lawyer Jack Oleander and his wife, Lovell.

Anheuser-Busch invests \$1 million in the National Urban League



NEW YORK — Anheuser-Busch recently contributed \$1 million to the National Urban League at the 43rd annual Equal Opportunity Day (EOD) Dinner in New York. The donation will be used for the League's endowment fund. At the event, Anheuser-Busch was inducted into the National Urban League's Million Dollar Hall of Fame. Pictured from left to right: Jonathan S. Linen, chairman, National Urban League Board of Trustees and vice chairman, American Express Company; Hugh B. Price, president and chief executive officer, National Urban League; and Wayman F. Smith III, vice president of corporate affairs, Anheuser-Busch Companies.

Site approved for Dr. King Memorial

WASHINGTON — A four acre site for a monument to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was recently approved by the National Capital Planning Commission.

The site is located at the Northwest point of Tidal Basin, on a line halfway between the memorials of Presidents Jefferson and Lincoln.

In a city of monuments and symbols, where words and deeds have inspired and moved our nation forward, we are long overdue in celebrating Dr. King and his hope for America," said Rep. Constance A. Morella (Republican-Maryland) who sponsored the measure in the House along with Rep. Julian Dixon (Democrat-California).

No American in our history has embodied more genuinely the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation so desperately



needed in facing the social and economic problems that plague our nation today," Morella said. "Dr. King challenged us to envision a world in which social justice and peace will prevail among all people. This memorial will provide a symbol of that message and will help pass that

message from generation to generation."

During the summer of 1998 the US Senate and House of Representatives unanimously approved resolutions that would allow Alpha Phi Alpha, the nation's oldest and largest predominantly black Greek-letter fraternity to build a memorial honoring its most illustrious brother — Dr. King — in the heart of Washington, D.C.'s monuments to the most renowned figures in American history.

King's widow, Coretta Scott King, will serve as honorary chair of the project, and former U.N. Ambassador and Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young will lead the fund-raising efforts. The group has until Nov. 2003 to complete a design, raise money for the memorial and break ground.

Gore launches major initiative to court black voters

By James Pilcher

ATLANTA (AP) — Vice President Al Gore Saturday launched a major initiative to keep his lead among potential black voters, announcing the endorsement of several black leaders and elected officials.

Planked by black officials from throughout the South, Gore said that he was "proud of what we have done together in the South, but we need to go further."

The launch also included scheduled events for black supporters in Des Moines, Iowa, Chicago, New York and Los Angeles and a campaign release said that more than 2,000 black leaders had endorsed Gore for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Before beginning his 45-minute speech, Gore said that he was "grateful" to hear that former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley had returned to the Democratic campaign trail after being briefly hospitalized with an irregular heartbeat recently.

"He is a great man and a great competitor," Gore said. "I look forward to continuing our discussions on the issues."

A recent Associated Press poll showed blacks are more likely than other Democrats to back Gore, and the vice president appears intent on keeping that edge.

He spoke at Atlanta Life Insurance Company, the nation's largest black-owned insurance company. The company is located on historic Auburn Avenue, once the center of the black community in Atlanta and the scene of several civil rights marches led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Gore said that despite a booming economy and the low unemployment rate among blacks in the nation's history, much remains to be done for the black community, including reforming health care and protecting affirmative action.

"Anyone who says we don't need these things because

we've already reached the promised land has the wilderness confused with Canaan," Gore said.

The biblical reference thrilled the crowd of about 300 Gore supporters on hand, most of whom stood, cheered and sang throughout the event.

Joining Gore on stage were several black leaders from throughout the South — including Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee, D-Texas, and state Attorney General Thurbert Baker.

"Let not the media characterize our endorsement as just another knee-jerk reaction," Ms. Jackson-Lee said. "Let us explain that Al Gore understands affirmative action — is the affirming of the human dignity of a people who suffered 400 years of slavery."

Gov. Roy Barnes also spoke to the crowd and has previously endorsed Gore, a former senator from neighboring Tennessee.

"The other side of the political debate wants to blow the roof off of campaign finance records," Gore said, referring to Texas Gov. George W. Bush's massive campaign war chest in his bid for the Republican nomination. "But here in the South, we are going to blow the roof off of voter registration and voter turnout and voter participation."

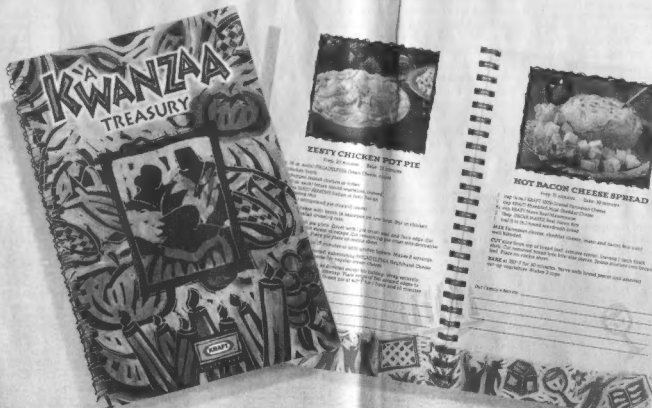
In 1998, black voters helped Democrats practically sweep statewide elections, in which the only Republican winners were incumbents such as U.S. Sen. Paul Coverdell and School Superintendent Linda Schrenko.

And several speakers reminded the crowd of their efforts, which included 90 percent turnouts in some predominantly black Atlanta precincts.

"One thing that is really a staple of our community is that we remember those who support us," said Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell, who introduced Gore to the crowd. "And Al Gore has been there for us time and time again."



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Have we arrived?

At the turn of the century, Civil Rights leader W.E.B. DuBois wrote about the "New Negro," the black man and woman who would take on the challenges of the century and change the landscape of human nature and social philosophy. As a race, considering the horrific state in which we were determined to be educated, we found a way and made tremendous strides against all odds. And here we are today. But have we arrived?

I think not, when as a race we've witnessed time and again the targeted tactics against people practiced by police and law enforcement. I think not, when a black man gets shot at 41 times and then in fairness for the accused the trial venue is moved. I think not, when a white grandmother is asked to find somewhere else to live because of her biracial grandson. I think not, when after two-centuries of toiling in the fields like bovine people to make America the rich nation that it is, only to be told affirmative action is reverse discrimination. No, I think not!

That "New Negro" that DuBois spoke about is you and me. A. Philip Randolph, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Fannie Lou Hamer, and countless others were the "New Negroes" of their day — and now its turn to rise and usher in a better day for our children. As we sit at the dawn of the millennium, we must ensure a place for our children where they will not have to be shot at, beat down, barred from, and locked up just because. With all that we've endured over the years, the task at hand is merely something else for us to do. We've all ready proven time and time again we're a people of great strength, which goes back to our African roots. In the words of one of my most revered person's (Fannie Lou Hamer) "We've come so far to turn back now."

What role will you play in the millennium, when it comes to moving our people forth? Are you going to be one of the "New Negroes" that DuBois spoke of? He knew almost one hundred years later the New Negro would be realized — not just as one man or woman, but many, breaking barriers in various fields making this turn of the century much more promising to future generations of African Americans!

Qualified teachers for all children. No Exceptions. No Excuses.

By Bob Chase

The single most important factor in a child's education is the quality of the teacher. But in far too many public school classrooms, teacher quality is being sacrificed for teacher quality as school districts issue emergency licenses to under-qualified teachers and assign teachers to teach classes outside their fields of expertise.

Most disturbing is that children in high-poverty schools, the children most in need, are most likely to have under-prepared teachers. In schools with high percentages of poor and minority students, 60 percent of teachers have neither a college major nor a minor in their primary teaching subject.

For students in high-poverty schools, the problem is even more severe. Nineteen percent of those in English, 26 percent of those in math classes, and 71 percent of those in chemistry classes are taught by teachers with neither a major nor minor in the field. The result is that the least qualified teachers are assigned to the children who are routinely teaching those children with the greatest needs.

As the long-predicted teacher shortage in public schools becomes more and more of a reality, and the demand for teachers exceeds the supply, the challenge to maintain teacher quality becomes even more critical.

That is why NEA is issuing a call to action to school leaders and parents to make teacher quality a top concern and to ensure that every child has a competent and qualified teacher.

We challenge local school districts to better organize their teacher recruitment, selection, and hiring processes in order to attract and retain high-quality teachers. Solving the teacher shortage problem no longer strictly numbers game. National figures show that 25 percent to 40 percent of people who are certified to teach each year never enter the classroom. Of those who do enter teaching, 30 percent to 50 percent leave the profession before the end

of their fifth year.

These numbers paint a troubling picture: there is not a shortage of certified people to teach — there is a shortage of people who want to teach. There is a salary shortage where teachers are still paid less than professions that require comparable education and skills. There is a respect shortage where teachers still are not valued for their actual contributions to society. And there is a shortage of the most basic care and feeding of teachers, their professional lives. Addressing and tackling these issues is the first step to attracting and keeping qualified teachers in the classroom.

We also challenge parents to become informed consumers about their children's education. To begin, find out if the teachers in local schools are certified to teach in their subject areas. Ask the school district what percentage of teachers are teaching subjects outside their field of expertise, and what percentage of teachers hold temporary, provisional or emergency licenses.

Question school leaders about what they are doing to support beginning teachers and keep qualified staff in the classroom. And find out if the district provides mentoring and gives new teachers ample time to observe and learn from more seasoned peers. As more parents begin investigating teacher quality and asking the right questions, more policymakers will begin taking steps to resolve this problem.

The best-kept secret of the teacher profession is that far too many of us are practicing our craft alongside colleagues who do not hold the appropriate license. And far too many of us are teaching subjects for which we are not qualified. Now is the time to step forward and help eradicate education's little secret. Let's have a fully prepared, qualified teacher in every classroom. No exceptions. No excuses.

Bob Chase is a social studies teacher and president, National Education Association.

By Manning Marable

Several weeks ago I attended and spoke at a conference on which was organized at Stanford University. After delivering my lecture, I walked down the steps from the stage. Clustered around the steps were several male and female graduate students. One young black man, about 25 years old, handsome and confident, began to raise a series of questions. I quickly apologized, and explained that I had to leave immediately to be transported by car to the San Jose airport, to catch the red-eye evening flight back to New York.

The students expressed the desire to continue our conversation on foot, and would even help carry my suitcase. I agreed. We walked across the large campus at a quick pace, as I was peppered with queries. The young black man wanted to know if I still considered myself a democratic socialist, and if so, why?

I started to talk about the rich tradition of black American leaders and scholars who publicly identified themselves as "socialists," including W.E.B. Du Bois, A. Philip Randolph, Paul Robeson, Angela Y. Davis, Bayard Rustin, Audre Lorde, June Jordan and Cornel West. At the end of their lives, both Malcolm and Martin had urged me to believe that capitalism as a social and economic system could never empower the overwhelming majority of black people inside this country as well as worldwide.

"But what makes you think socialism can be relevant or even make sense to black people, when everywhere it's been tried it has failed?" the young black man asked sincerely. "What socialist societies can serve as realistic models for us today?"

Well yes, I replied, the concept of socialism has been discarded largely due to the collapse of Soviet Communism, as well as the retreat of European Social Democratic Parties into neoliberalism. But despite their problems, socialist economies did deliver many real benefits, such as free education, universal health care, decent housing and pensions, far better than market societies.

Markets are engines of inequality. I asserted. When a group of people sits down to play poker, at the end of the game everyone goes home with more money than they came with. It's a zero-sum game, with winners and losers. And in a racist society,

the economy is designed to insure that African Americans, Latinos, working class and poor people are almost always permanent "losers."

"Maybe you're wrong about history," the young black man countered, as we walked to the parking lot, looking around for the car to

Leaders aren't born, they are made. Those of us who may claim the mantle of experience in the black freedom movement, must listen and learn from the perspectives of the rising generation of African Americans.

take me to the airport. "Look at the economic prosperity of the 1990s. Even poor people in the U.S. have a much higher standard of living than anyone in the Third World."

That fact is of little comfort to the 44 million Americans who don't have medical insurance. I replied. In 1999, more than 500,000 Americans will go to hospital emergency rooms and will be turned away because they have no health insurance. A black man born and raised in Central Harlem has life expectancy of 49 years of age, lower than many Third World countries. How can any of this be justified?

"I'm not justifying it," the young man replied. "But there's no alternative to what is already out there, and the prospects for fundamental change in the near future are almost nonexistent."

As the car finally pulled up to take me to the airport, I thought for a moment and then said to the young man: "You're very intelligent, and clearly committed to progressive ideas. But don't be intimidated by the power of the system. People united in struggle can make new history."

We shook hands, and then I stepped into the car. Slowly, through heavy freeway traffic, we made it to the airport just in time. All along the way, I thought about the generational divide that now cuts across black America. Middle-aged African Americans who lived through the Civil Rights and Black Power movements witnessed funda-

mental changes in politics and society. Jim Crow segregation was destroyed, African and Caribbean countries became independent, Black college enrollments in the U.S. soared from 200,000 to 1.1 million in only twenty years. The number of black elected officials rose from only 100 in 1964 to over 10,000 today. We were convinced that history was on our side.

For the Millennial generation, recent black history has been largely a series of reversals and defeats: the dismantling of affirmative action, the rapid expansion of prisons and the incarceration of one third of all young black men behind bars, prominent cases of police brutality, and economic marginalization. Even the decade's most significant public event involving African American young people, the Million Man March, did not consolidate the mass outpouring of emotional energy into a strong grassroots network and a coherent public policy agenda for black empowerment. Louis Farrakhan's blend of Republican economics, patriarchy and conservative black nationalism came to represent "black militancy" to many younger African Americans, who were desperately searching for effective leadership. Some could not discern the differences between the voices of black progressivism vs. black reaction. Although many young African Americans are active in political organizations and movements, others have become disengaged from struggles within the black community.

Those of us who may claim the mantle of experience in the black freedom movement, must listen and learn from the perspectives of the rising generation of African Americans. Through dialogues and exchanges, we may find better ways to communicate our knowledge and cumulative insights to younger people, without imposing our own assumptions and dogmatic local realities.

Only a leadership that learns from the past is capable of articulating a vision for the future. But each successive generation must find its own voice, its way of interpretation, and understanding the world, in its effort to change it.

Dr. Manning Marable is professor of history and political science and the director of Institute for Research in African American Studies at Columbia University.

Black Kwanzaa season and economics

By Conrad Worrell

Kwanzaa is an African in America celebration based on African agricultural/harvest celebrations and collective principles which contribute to the unity and development of our community in the United States. It is the 33rd anniversary of Kwanzaa and the 30th year of its celebration in Chicago.

Kwanzaa was created to introduce African people in America to new values. Kwanzaa is a seven day celebration that is held from December 26 to January 1. These new values are called the Seven Sabas or the seven principles of Blackness. If practiced would give them (us) a set of priorities and commitments which would enhance their (our) human possibilities and lead to their (our) liberation and a higher level of human existence.

The United States economy is suffering from the white supremacy arrogance of centuries of brutal exploitation of the world's resources and its people.

This era of United States history demands that African people in America place a greater degree of emphasis on our collective economic salvation. Once again, the old truth that "Black people are the last hired and the first fired," is surfacing itself throughout the major employment centers in this country.

Given this economic crisis, the Kwanzaa season helps us place the question of economics on the agenda of our struggle. The eradication of our economic slave condition must continue to be a major challenge as we enter the twenty-first century. If we are to be stated enemies, we are far too dependent on Europeans and Asians for our food, clothing and shelter.

The principle we commemorate during the Kwanzaa season that speaks to this issue is Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics). This principle encourages African people in America "to build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together." On the fourth day of Kwanzaa, Wednesday, December 29th, this principle is celebrated.

In this regard, it is important, once again, to state Malcolm X's philosophy of Black nationalism. Malcolm said:

"We must be re-educated to the importance of controlling the economy in which we live by owning and operating the busi-

ness in the community we live in and developing some industry that will employ our people so the won't have to boycott and picket other people in other communities to get a job. We must understand the importance of spending money in the community in which we live."

Malcolm went on to say that, "The neighborhoods in which you spend your

The principle we commemorate during the Kwanzaa season that speaks to this issue is Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics). This principle encourages African people in America "to build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together."

money become richer and richer and the neighborhoods in which the money is taken out of becomes poorer and poorer. This creates slums — all the wealth leaves."

Finally, speaking on the topic of economic philosophy of Black nationalism, Malcolm continues by pointing out:

"Even when we try to spend money in our own community we don't. Business is controlled by outsiders who don't live in the community because they don't know the importance of owning and operating businesses ourselves. So money leaves the community in a basket at sundown. We must control our own economy."

One important activity African American people should practice during the Kwanzaa season is doing business with each other, thus continuing this practice throughout the

year.

In next to the final chapter of Dr. Chancellor Williams classic book, *The Destruction of Black Civilization*, he addresses the issue of "Organizing A Race For Action."

Dr. Williams explains that this organizing for racial action should have as a major component, "The Division of Economic Planning and Development." He explains that:

"The Division of Economic Planning and Development should be the foundation of the organized efforts and a principal source of support and promotion of the most important activities of the whole race. A guiding principle should be that all promoted community enterprises shall be cooperatively owned and controlled by the people of the community and that each enterprise be highly trained management and competent service personnel."

In this connection, Dr. Williams makes this observation:

"The second great understanding should be that economic activities are so fundamental in any truly upward movement, so clearly indispensable at this stage in history, that it should be unnecessary to state it even."

If we are ever to become a free and independent people, we must organize the race for action.

Harambee! (Let's pull together!)

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

NEWARK — SCORE hosts a business counseling seminar at Two Gateway Center. Call (973) 645-3968 for information.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

NEWARK — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) hosts a seminar on creating a business plan at Two Gateway Center. 1 p.m. (973) 645-2434.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

NEWARK — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) hosts a seminar and discussion on minority enterprise development program at Two Gateway Center. 9:30 a.m. (973) 645-4951.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on special needs trusts at the New Jersey Law Center. 7 p.m. (732) 249-5000.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Central Jersey Job Developers Association hosts its 16th Annual Job Fair at the Rutgers Labor Education Center. 9 a.m. (732) 745-5330.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

NEWARK — SCORE hosts a seminar on starting and managing your own business at Two Gateway Center. 8:30 a.m. (973) 645-3962.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on planning a will or estate at the New Jersey Law Center. 7 p.m. (732) 249-5000.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

WASHINGTON — The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce hosts its 53rd Congressional Dinner at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel through Feb. 4. Call (800) 989-7888 for information.

Harmon smokes at NAACP Dinner

By Kamau Kujichagulia

The climate in Trenton is ripe with a message of economic, political, social, civil, educational and religious freedom. Black people are demanding the end of kowtowing, shucking and jiving.

This group of solid, conservative NAACP held its 29th Annual Freedom Fund Award Dinner, Sunday evening at the Crescent Temple in Trenton. Steve Hallett, president and the body honored six community members who have stood out in their respective fields.

This group of solid, conservative, Trenton citizens, some might even say somber, came alive when honoree John Harmon let it be said that the organization he presides over, Metropolitan Trenton African American Chamber of Commerce (MTAAC), is fighting for the rights and inclusion of African Americans into the economic pie of Mercer County. He distanced his organization from the Mercer County Business Association (MCBA) headed by Mercer County Freeholder candidate Greg Williams. Harmon said MCBA, which used to be the Mercer County Black Business Association and

MTAAC "have major philosophical differences." The crowd cheered.

The reaction of the crowd showed exactly where this group stands to go. Harmon said "MTAAC stands for African Americans and we work to position African American businesses toward assets." He went on to say "we wanted everyone to know 'who we are by the works we do'."

Also honored were Emerson Simmons for his work in education; Juanita Joyner for community service; Bonnie Watson Coleman, governor; John Harmon let it be said that the organization he presides over, Metropolitan Trenton African American Chamber of Commerce (MTAAC), is fighting for the rights and inclusion of African Americans into the economic pie of Mercer County. He distanced his organization from the Mercer County Business Association (MCBA) headed by Mercer County Freeholder candidate Greg Williams. Harmon said MCBA, which used to be the Mercer County Black Business Association and

Still, the night belonged to Harmon. In recent weeks Williams has tried to make it look like his group, MCBA and Harmon's, MTAAC have been working hand in hand. This was so it looked like he was being supported by the black business community from the Mercer County Freeholder. John Harmon said he was not being forthright in there dealing with the black

community concerning building of the Mercer County Arena. The county claimed that the \$40 million dollars spent on the arena so far, black contractors and business had received over \$11 million. Harmon said his group had checked area businesses and "We can only account for \$10,000 of the money for the arena being spent in the African American community in Mercer County." He said that "We have to hold everybody accountable, including our clergy, considering some of their recent endorsements."

The crowd went wild. Some even came to their feet applauding his words.

Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, feeling the mood of the nearly 500 people in the room, warned that we must remain diligent in our fight for justice and our support of the NAACP because "Racism and discrimination are alive though they aren't as well as they used to be."

She went on to say, "We must be diligent for the rights of those who can't stand for themselves. We have to hold everybody accountable, including our clergy, considering some of their recent endorsements."

Newark's economy rated 58th most powerful in world

NEWARK — Newark's growing economic punch is outpacing other cities and nations, according to a study commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Association of Counties, which compared and rated urban economies with those of other countries.

Newark's Gross Metropolitan Product (GMP) of \$82.074 billion for 1998 put it ahead of nations like Malaysia, Ireland, and New Zealand, and the states of Oklahoma, Kansas and Nevada. Newark's economy is also ahead of American powerhouse cities like Pittsburgh, Miami, Denver, and Cleveland.

The study, prepared by Standard & Poor's DRI Division, showed that metropolitan cities

and counties are driving America's economic growth, providing 84 percent of the nation's domestic product, 84 percent of America's employment, and 38 percent of the nation's income.

"Newark is in the major leagues," said Mayor Sharpe James. "Our economy is outpacing countries like New Zealand, which is a highly technologically advanced 3 million people. We are ahead of Denver, whose population of 450,000 is nearly twice New York's."

"Our economic numbers at weight our population. The reason for our growth is because of our outstanding location and the magnificent dynamic energy of our

rainbow coalition of private and public sectors. Newark is not only big, but it's also smart."

The USMC report showed that Newark's metropolitan area GMP grew by 5.41 percent from 1997 to 1998. It jumped from being ranked 60th behind Baltimore and Chile. Baltimore moved up to 57 and Chile to 54. Egypt and St. Louis took over as 58 and 60, respectively.

While many cities and states showed growth last year, others fell, most notably Singapore, which plummeted from 45th place to 55th place with a 14.33 percent change in GMP.

"We are growing steadily," James said, "through numerous initiatives and partnerships. We have our Social Improvement District, our South Ward Industrial Park development, our many housing developments, and our outstanding arts and sports programs, which are in turn fueling the New Jersey development project."

But most importantly, we are being recognized for our achievements here," as this report indicates. These achievements are being confirmed by such events as the recent presidential visit, which have gained Newark favorable national attention, generating even more investment and economic development."

Planning for marriage and your first child

(Part 1 of a series)



Dale G. Caldwell

I have received a lot of positive feedback and a lot of questions about my financial planning columns. Interestingly, most of these questions relate to the financial implications of significant life changes. In my next four columns I will discuss financial planning around six life changing events. These events are: getting married, having your first child, getting divorced, putting a child through college, taking care of your parents after retirement and losing a spouse through death. This week I will discuss getting married and having your first child.

Getting Married

Too often couples getting married are so focused on the wedding that they don't think about developing a solid financial plan for marriage. Ideally, a couple getting married should develop a financial plan that will help them:

- 1) Determine what their short-term and long-term goals are.
- 2) Develop their personal budget, cash flow and net worth statements.
- 3) Set up their checking and savings accounts.
- 4) Determine how they will pay for child care and contribute to investment accounts.
- 5) Decide how much they are willing to pay for their wedding (and how to fund it).
- 6) Decide how they plan to file their tax returns (jointly or separately).
- 7) Unfortunately, two people will pay more in taxes when they are married than if they filed taxes as single individuals.
- 8) Determine whether or not pre-nuptial agreements are appropriate.
- 9) Develop an estate plan (wills, trusts and the use of joint tenants with rights of survivorship).
- 10) Structure their life insurance.
- 11) Develop a plan to maximize the benefits of their health insurance.
- 12) Determine which credit cards to keep.
- 13) Understand any credit limitations that may exist.
- 14) Begin to plan for children (as appropriate).

These decisions are not easy and may add some stress to the impending marriage. However, making these decisions early could save a marriage. I frequently bear that most disagreements in marriage relate to a couple's finances. By discussing finances early in the marriage you will avoid many arguments later on in the marriage.

Having your first child

Parenthood will have a significant impact on a family's finances. Hopefully, you developed a preliminary financial plan for your first child early in your marriage (see above). If you did not develop a financial plan for your first child then you should develop a financial plan as soon as possible. This financial plan should help you:

- Determine whether one of you will stay home with the infant (and for how long).
- Develop new budget, cash flow and net worth statements.
- Review your short-term and long-term financial goals.
- Identify all related costs (child care, health care, food, clothing, home renovations, etc.).
- Determine how you can increase your savings and expand your contingency (rainy day) fund.
- Maximize the benefits from your health care plans.
- Manage your credit card debt.
- Determine how much and what type of insurance you need.
- Develop an estate plan (wills, trusts and the use of joint tenants with rights of survivorship when purchasing assets).
- Maximize your tax benefits (there are significant tax benefits to having a child).
- The financial plan that you develop when you have your first child will help you become a more organized parent. By thinking about these things in advance you will be better prepared for the unexpected challenges you will face as a parent.

Financial planning for a newly married couple and financial planning for a first child can be extremely complex. The implications to your monthly budget, personal cash flow and net worth are enormous. If you do not plan adequately for these significant life events you are likely to face some very challenging financial situations. I recommend that you meet with a financial planner to get help in developing a detailed financial plan. This small investment will probably make your life and your family's life more enjoyable than it would have been otherwise.

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Religion

December 22, 1999 — January 4, 2000

RELIGION CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

EAST ORANGE — The Catholic Faith Community of Holy Spirit and Our Lady Help of Christians holds morning prayer, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

BELLEVILLE — Christ Episcopal Church holds its Solemn Festival Eucharist, 11 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

MONTCCLAIR — Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church holds Christmas Mass, 8 a.m. (973) 744-1074.

EAST ORANGE — St. Joseph Church holds Christmas mass, 10 a.m. (973) 674-0110.

Bradley urges black church members to join his campaign

By Michelle DeArmond

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bill Bradley lauded black churchgoers as the champions of the 1960s civil rights movement and urged them to join his presidential campaign, vowing to fight racism with their support.

"It was the black church that saw the tenets of our Scriptures as the model for our civil rights movement," the former New Jersey senator said recently at a meeting of the Congress of National Black Churches, Inc., where his remarks were greeted by "amens" and applause. "I want you to know that this is the faith that I have too."

The congress is a 21-year-old ecumenical coalition of black historically black denominations. Bradley spoke at the downtown Biltmore Hotel at the organization's annual meeting as part of a two-day swing through California, which he visited just weeks ago.

Bradley never mentioned his opponent, Vice President Al Gore, during his speech but instead shared stories of his own childhood as a Presbyterian in southern Missouri.

Segregation often kept his racially mixed boyfriend and baseball team from eating out or staying in motels together, Bradley said.

He asserted that many subtle forms of racism remain today, citing inequities in levels of education, health care and home loans between minorities and whites.

"I know that when you see these things that it must kill something inside of you, too," Bradley said. "It must end."

Bradley named his on-criticism proposal to get health care coverage for 95 percent of Americans as one way to help the country's poor. Additionally, he called for strict enforcement of anti-discrimination laws, greater involvement of minorities in government and tighter gun control.

"Some people are saying, 'We can't do all the things you want to do.' I don't think we should settle," he said.

Bradley acknowledged that not all the audience members supported him, but urged them to get to know him better and consider joining his campaign. Staff members encouraged conventioners to volunteer at a reception, where supporters lined up to have their pictures taken with him.

John Walker of the Alfred Street Baptist Church in Northern Virginia said he was excited by what he heard but had yet to make up his mind. Walker described himself as a registered independent who often votes Democratic.

"It's what I wanted to hear, certainly what I would like," he said of Bradley's push for racial unity and universal health care. "It was good to hear about his childhood."

Robert M. Franklin, a member of the organization's board, introduced Bradley and praised him as a man of character whose background has prepared him for the presidency.

He did not arrive here with a silver spoon in his mouth," he said. "He has the capacity to bring us together."

African American Jubilee Bible hits the bookstores

NEW YORK — The Jubilee Bible is designed to help readers connect black history, cultural images, moral visions, and perspectives to the ancient Scriptures in such a way that the Word of God becomes authentic, relevant, and intimate. Readers are invited to examine and study the Bible through African American historical and cultural understandings of the Scriptures. Prominent African American scholars and new voices in biblical scholarship contributed to the Jubilee Edition including Dr. Cain Hope Felder, Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt, Jr., Dr. Virgil A. Wood and Dr. Edwinna Maria Wright. The Jubilee Bible reflects the African American experience from Africa to the United States, the West Indies and South America, a journey of faith and faith-based freedom. Culture is explored through kinship, religion, worship and music. Articles in the material that accompanies the Jubilee Bible explain the practice and celebration of the spirit of jubilee in everyday lives.

The text, illustrated by exquisite art, covers a wide range of topics, including the relationship between Hebrew and African languages, the role of Africans in the Bible, Blacks in biblical antiquity, slavery, and the Bible and African American spirituality.

The basis of the jubilee theme is, "And ye shall have the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof; it shall be jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family." (Leviticus 25, 10, KJV).

The story of jubilee is well established in both the Old and New Testaments. African-Americans' slave ancestors' love for the Bible strengthened their biblical beliefs and kept the spirit of jubilee alive within the community. "The publication of the Jubilee Bible represents a significant milestone for ABS," said Dr. Habesack. "What a wonderful message to carry forward into the next century."



The images here are featured in the "African American Jubilee Bible." To purchase a bible call 1-800-32-Bible, available in leather, flex or hardcover.

Music, dance, and prayer ring in 2000 at Elmwood United Presbyterian Church

EAST ORANGE — Elmwood United Presbyterian Church and the African Globe Theater Works will usher in the new millennium with special celebrations designed to honor the experience at the church and Cicely Tyson School Auditorium.

Beginning New Year's Eve, the school will host the production of "An African-American Mafsa Experience: A Way Out Of No Way." The play will commemorate the journey of African Americans from ancient Africa through the slave experience to the present day. It will enter the depths of our collective joys and sorrows of our culture. The production will also feature Sankofa Dance Theater of African Globe Theater Works.

The Elmwood Dramatic and Liturgical Dance Ministry and the Cicely Tyson School of the Performing Arts will entertain the audience.

Following the "Mafsa Experience," there will be a "Sankofa Celebration" at the church. The celebration will cap-



Rev. Robert Burkins, Senior Pastor at Elmwood United Presbyterian Church.

ture the spirit of the Harlem Renaissance and people who were involved. Festivals will be capped off with a spouse service.

All events are free and open to the public beginning at 9 p.m. For more information call (973) 676-0055.

Shiloh Baptist to host Women's prayer breakfast

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The Women's Fellowship Ministry of Shiloh Baptist Church of Plainfield hosts a "Women's Prayer Breakfast" on Saturday, January 8, 2000.

The event will take place at the Holiday Inn in South Plainfield beginning at 9 a.m. This year's theme is "What Happens When Women Pray," which deals with the power of women in church and their relationship with God. The featured guest speaker is Evangelist Diane P. Hawkins of First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset.

The registration fee is \$10 and the deadline is January 2, 2000. The breakfast is open to women of all ages. For more information call (908) 754-3353.

POSITIVELY BLACK

From disorientation to empowerment

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

"Cognitive Dissonance: an uncomfortable psychological state in which the individual experiences two incompatible beliefs or cognitions. Cognitive dissonance theory holds that the individual is motivated by the attendant discomfort to act in such a manner as to reduce dissonance." Dictionary of Psychology

"We African Americans must increase our brain power by developing our cognitive skills. This process begins by reexamining all information that has been presented to us and evaluating it based on our own personal and cultural experiences, our own histories and our own myths." Anthony T. Browder from "Survival Strategies For Africans In America"

Africans throughout the Diaspora suffer from what European psychologists call cognitive dissonance, what I call cognitive disconnection. This means the self-negating mental programming and brainwashing we have been subjected to causes psychic conflict (an uncomfortable psychological state) inducing us to disavow our historical and personal experiences at the hands of our enemies further acerbating mental and emotional disorientation whereby we believe our subordinate condition and pathology are self-induced or the result of our own intrinsic inferiority.

In short, we have internalized their lies about their superiority and our sub-humanity. The uncomfortable psychological state normally calls for some type of corrective action. The operative word here is action. However in an oppressive environment — such as during slavery — any outward rebellion brought swift and severe retribution. Outnumbered and outgunned, our ancestors internalized their pain and angst.

Cognitive disconnection became a very effective means to check and neutralize our internal attempt to find meaning and resolution to an absurd and untenable situation. It is the reason we continually fall for the okay-doke of the oppressor.

Cognition is an internal process. It is the way we mentally process stimuli and data to form our perceptions, beliefs, world view, desires, motivation and plan of action. Unless and until we define a crucial aspect of higher thinking and cognition, our options differently we will continue to do the same things over and over again, getting the same results, disorganization, disunity and defeat. Our prime motivation should be to alter our thinking and action so we reduce the internal dissonance and ultimately restore ourselves to sanity and

wholeness.

We are not helpless or hopeless. The solution to all our challenges dwell within us. We have brilliant minds, strong wills and an indomitable spirit. All we have to do is marshal our inner and collective resources, actualize our potential and determine we will no longer be brainwashed and hounded.

Once we get our thinking correct all else will fall in line. Our enemies know this all too well. That is why they expand so much energy and resources to keep us befuddled, confused, disorganized and comatose.

We are in an all out war for the minds, souls and bodies of our people. This has all the ingredients of an historic/heroic epoch. Think about it: a people descended from the first humans to walk the planet. They were creators of brilliant civilizations, geniuses who invented science, mathematics, religion, metallurgy and agriculture. But, they were reduced to mere caricatures of their former selves, now confronted with the option/mission to save the world from the clutches of hi-tech psychopathic barbarians. As far fetched as this may seem, this is our reality. Only now begin to reduce the dissonance, take control of our minds and define reality for ourselves will we realize who we are, what we are up against and what we must do to save planet earth.

The first step is as Anthony Browder succinctly said, increasing our brain power by developing our cognitive skills. Start thinking about your life and your experiences. Reject the Eurocentric world view if it doesn't jive with your history/reality. To do that you must relearn our history! Don't believe the enemy's hype. The only way a small percentage of the world's population can rule the majority is by deceit, ruthlessly controlling our thinking, making us believe and accept lies as truth. The mass media is their main tactic into our lives/minds pumping out white supremacist, anti-African images and information 24-7, 365. We must become critical thinkers. Question and analyze everything they say. Ask yourself, "Can I believe what they are saying?" In most instances, the answer is no.

Beware, one of their main tricks is to sugar coat their lies with a tincture of truth so the lies are camouflaged and the message becomes more palatable to the unthinking. We have an obligation to the creator, our ancestors, ourselves and our progeny to become self-actualized, fully functioning human beings. We cannot accomplish that or become our truest and noblest selves suffering from cognitive disobedience.

Prayer Corner

"Put thou my tears
into thy bottle. . ."

David was under attack by the enemy — so he had some days of distress. And, obviously, there were times when he wept, so, he asked God to put his tears into his bottle (to remember him in his time of trouble). Probably not too many people saw his tears, but they fell!

So, sometimes the cares of this life will bring tears to our eyes; and it's okay for us to cry (and not be too proud to do so) because it does make us feel better. But, we must not continue to cry; but rather wipe away, grab the arms of faith, and go forward! We are assured that they who sow in tears shall reap in joy (Psalm 126:5). Whatever it is that we are going through, JOY is coming in the morning and strength is on the way. "I will strengthen thee, yea I will help thee," saith the Lord (Isaiah 41:10).

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Local Consumer Education Program

Local Briefs

Professional actors perform plays written by Newark students

NEWARK — Professional actors from the Playwrights Theater of New Jersey recently performed a series of mini-plays written by students attending South Street School in Newark. Rosemary McLaughlin, artistic residence from the Playwrights Theater, in partnership with the New Jersey Council on the Arts, recently taught a short series of playwriting classes to forty-two fifth grade students who worked with the playwright for two hours a day for four days. At the end of the program, the students completed a series of plays. Five of the plays including "The Sweetest Dance," "Ex-Best Friends," and "Talking on the Telephone" were selected by the theater to be performed at South Street School.

An anthology of the plays was given to each of the students, the school's administrators and the school library.

Wheelchairs and assistance for the disabled help children have a happy holiday

UNION CITY — Wheelchair & Assistance for the Disabled (Wheelchair), a non-profit organization, recently coupled with In-Person Payroll (IPP) this holiday season to help underprivileged children enjoy the holiday season. Wheelchair, based in Union City, N.J., collected used wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, etc. and donate them to underprivileged children all over the world. IPP, a full-service provider of electronic payments systems, enables cash payers to pay their bills at local stores in their community. IPP is still accepting donations on behalf of Wheelchair. If you would like to make a donation to Wheelchair, you can do so at any IPP location. For more information about Wheelchair, you can visit their Web site at www.wheelchair.org. To find the IPP location nearest to you, call 1-888-IPP-PAYS.

NJ historians honored in East Orange

EAST ORANGE — The Historical Society of East Orange recently honored distinguished New Jersey historical figures at a gala at the Blue Bird Inn. The celebration recognized the outstanding achievements of Charles Cunniff, Lenworth Gaudin, Larry Green, Clement Pine, and Bill Wright. The event also featured art and historical exhibits, newly published Heritage Brochure, along with music and poetry.

Seniors get a holiday gift from Irvington

IRVINGTON — The Township of Irvington recently treated its senior citizens to a free Christmas dinner at Don's Diner. The dinner was a way to give back and show the spirit of the holidays to its precious seniors. Mayor Sara Best, City Council members and administrators and a total of 600 seniors were served to help of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and pie. This is the fifth time that city has provided free meals to its seniors.

Corzine stumps

Continued from page 1

NJPAC on December 19, served the same purpose for Corzine as the stop at Unity — to mobilize support. The event, which was attended by Senator Bob Kerry (D-NE) and presidential friend and advisor Vernon Jordan also brought out Mayor Sharpe James, Donald Tucker, Sen. Bob Torricelli, Hudson County Executive Bob Janiszewski and State Sen. Raymond J. Lesniak.

"We got together on a rainy, cold night in Newark to give an outpouring of support, respect and caring for this highly successful businessman," James said. "It is a clear indication of his statewide appeal and statewide support. People want to follow this man who took Goldman Sachs and turned it around." According to James, the event was expected to raise over \$700,000 for the Corzine campaign.

If elected, Corzine has promised that he is in favor of health care that will cover all children, provide affordable prescription drugs for seniors under Medicare, make health insurance premiums for the self-employed immediately tax deductible, and require employers to provide health coverage for all their workers.

LST 'Rites of Passage' honors the future of tomorrow with celebration



Honorees from the Oscar Miles Homes display the certificates awarded to them, included in the program is Timothy Gaylord, site coordinator (rear center) Garrett Carter (far right), assistant site coordinator and William L. Tatum (second from right) LST Group, his vice president.

NEWARK — Recently, the LST Group, Inc. hosted a third Rites of Passage program at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Newark.

Mayor Sharpe James, City Council members and parents and friends celebrated the accomplishments of the youth during the year. The purpose of the program is to help develop young adults the principles of success needed to ensure their positive achievement in the future. It focuses on teaching discipline, responsibility, a sense of purpose, the will and motivation to succeed and the skills needed to be positive leaders. The group members, between the ages of 10 and 17, take part in discussions, field trips and hands-on projects with staff members and their peers. The program also emphasizes education through its extensive academic curriculum. For information, contact the LST Group, Inc. at (908) 753-4272.

POP calls for an end to the Cuban embargo

NEWARK — The People's Organization For Progress (POP) recently held a press conference to discuss the U.S. embargo against Cuba at the WISOMMM Women In Support of the Million Man March headquarters.

The U.S. embargo against Cuba, which has been in place for nearly forty years, is a failed government policy that is causing tremendous human suffering among the Cuban people. It is time for our government to end the embargo and normalize relations with Cuba.

For nearly forty years, United States government policy toward Cuba has been hostile and designed primarily to bring down the Cuban government through economic, political, cultural, and military sanctions.

The U.S. embargo, one of the harshest ever imposed, has not achieved its goal of removing Fidel Castro but it has strained and now is under heavy fire with the current situation of Elian Gonzalez. This is the young Cuban boy, who was illegally sent to the United States in his parents' hands, who has been in the custody of the U.S. government since his arrival.

Ostensibly, the blockade was put into place because Cuba was a military threat. But recently, both the Pentagon and the State Department have said that Cuba does not pose a military threat to the United States.

"National security can no longer be used as an excuse to continue the embargo," said Larry Hamm, chairman of POP. "Rather than isolating Cuba militarily, we should be pursuing their offer to assist in the effort to stop the illegal drug trade in the Caribbean."

Secretary of State Soaries announces Crusade for NJ Youth

TRENTON — As a part of his commitment to fostering an environment free of violence, vandalism, and victimization for the state's next generation of leaders, Secretary of State DeForest "Buster" Soaries, Jr. announced on December 16, in conjunction with the V-Free (violence, vandalism, victimization) initiative, a "Crusade for New Jersey Youth," (program with an emphasis on leadership, mentoring and community).

In January and February of 2000, students from middle and high schools throughout New Jersey's twenty-one counties will be invited to take part in this statewide campaign and learn how to make their schools and communities V-Free by developing their own projects. Their efforts will be supported by the mini \$75,000 grant made possible to foster the efforts of the Crusade and V-Free initiatives.

The program which is an extension of the V-Free initiative announced by Gov. Christine Todd Whitman and the Secretary of State on September 7, also launched its own website — www.njyouth.vfree.org — which will connect the youth across the state and their parents with government.

"I am calling upon all young people to join this Crusade. You are our partners for the future," said Soaries. "If we are to ensure that our youth will be able to achieve their fullest potential,



Lt. Wilbur Kornegay, Valerie Chambers, Lawrence Hamm, and Rev. Townsend, at recent press conference held calling for the end of the 40-year Cuban embargo.

The relationship between the two countries have been strained and now is under heavy fire with the current situation of Elian Gonzalez. This is the young Cuban boy, who was illegally sent to the United States in his parents' hands, who has been in the custody of the U.S. government since his arrival.

"There is need for dialog with Cuba not isolation," the U.S. is practically alone in its stand toward Cuba in world opinion, and the government is out of step with the feelings of the majority of Americans who believe there should be no restrictions on the shipment of food and medicine to Cuba," said Hamm. "By dogmatically pursuing this failed policy, the U.S. government is not only hurting the people of Cuba but also hurting itself."

Secretary of State Soaries announces Crusade for NJ Youth



New Jersey Secretary of State Rev. DeForest "Buster" Soaries, Jr.

then we must put the power in their hands to bring about positive change. Only through partnerships and student involvement and participation can we create a violence-free atmosphere for our schools and communities and establish effective solutions to remedy the tragedies that have befallen our nation."

The following is a listing of the scheduled dates for participating schools:

January 18
Mahway High School

January 19
Willingsboro High School

January 20
Wildwood High School

January 21
Flemington High School

January 25
So. Brunswick High School

January 27
Bayonne High School

January 28
Clifton High School

February 1
Montclair High School

February 2
Mt. Olive High School

February 7
Bridgewater High School

February 15
Pl. Pleasant Borough High School

February 16
East Camden Middle School

February 18
Lawrence High School

February 23
Hackettstown High School

February 24
Arts High School

Gill urges everyone to watch out for rent-to-own industry



TRENTON — Assembly Democratic Whip Niall H. Gill recently urged fellow legislators to be on their guard and resist pressure from the state's rent-to-own industry to provide lame-duck passage of a bill that would legalize the exorbitant rates the industry charges its customers.

"Of all the special interests in this world, the rent-to-own industry is the last group that should be receiving any sort of lame-duck favors during this holiday season," said Gill (D-Essex). "If this bill is to be considered at all, it should not be rushed into law by virtue of a frenzied lame-duck session."

The Assembly Consumer Affairs and Regulated Professions Committee reported favorably for Bill No. 1097. The committee substitute defines and regulates rental-purchase agreements involving personal property used for personal, family or household purposes. The bill provides that rental-purchase agreements are

not to be treated as retail installment contracts, retail charge accounts, credit sales or consumer leases. The bill specifies disclosures required both in the agreement and attached to the property offered for rental, and prohibits the inclusion of certain provisions in rental-purchase agreements; provides for the reinstatement of the rental-purchase agreement after failure of the consumer to make a timely payment.

Gill said the rent-to-own industry's preferred legislation is tantamount to sanctioning exploitation.

"This bill would allow the rent-to-own industry to charge effective annual interest rates that are illegal under current law," said Gill. "It allows the rent-to-own industry to charge late fees and other penalties that are illegal under the current law. It allows the rent-to-own industry to continue to use transactions that have been held to be unconscionable and illegal under current law."

Gill said the rent-to-own industry began lining up lobbyists to change the state laws after a series of court decisions sided with consumers in opposing rent-to-own practices.

"This bill doesn't protect the consumer," said Gill. "This bill doesn't create a competitive atmosphere in the industry. All the bill does is reverse the laws that make rent-to-own practices illegal. By passing this bill, this state is rejecting the side of justice argued in the court of law and siding with the exploitative and illegal practices of the rent-to-own industry."

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE DATES, TIMES, AND PLACES OF MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PASSAIC.

DATE	TIME	PLACE
Wed., Jan. 19, 2000	7:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers 330 Passaic Street
Wed., Feb. 16, 2000	7:00 P.M.	45 Aspen Place Recreational Room
Wed., Mar. 15, 2000	7:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers 330 Passaic Street
Mon., Apr. 24, 2000	7:00 P.M.	234 Chestnut Street
Wed., May 17, 2000	7:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers 330 Passaic Street
Wed., June 21, 2000	7:00 P.M.	203 Sixth Street
Wed., July 19, 2000	7:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers 330 Passaic Street
Wed., Sep. 20, 2000	7:00 P.M.	14-34 East Monroe St.
Wed., Oct. 18, 2000	7:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers 330 Passaic Street
Wed., Nov. 15, 2000	7:00 P.M.	299 Gregory Avenue
Wed., Dec. 20, 2000	7:00 P.M.	City Council Chambers 330 Passaic Street

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. ERIC KOLBE, EXEC. DIRECTOR

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Independence Community Bank, PNC Bank, and Summit Bank.
Buttons go on sale December 6.
Visit our website www.firstnightnewark.org

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And The Stellar Award goes to...

ATLANTA — "The Fifteenth Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards," honoring excellence in gospel music, will be held at the Atlanta Civic Center on January 8, 2000 in Atlanta, Ga. for the second consecutive year. This celestial tribute features a talented congregation of stars from gospel music and television. An exciting two-hour special, this glorious musical event is centered around Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. The "Fifteenth Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards" is scheduled to air nationwide from January 14 to February 6, 2000.

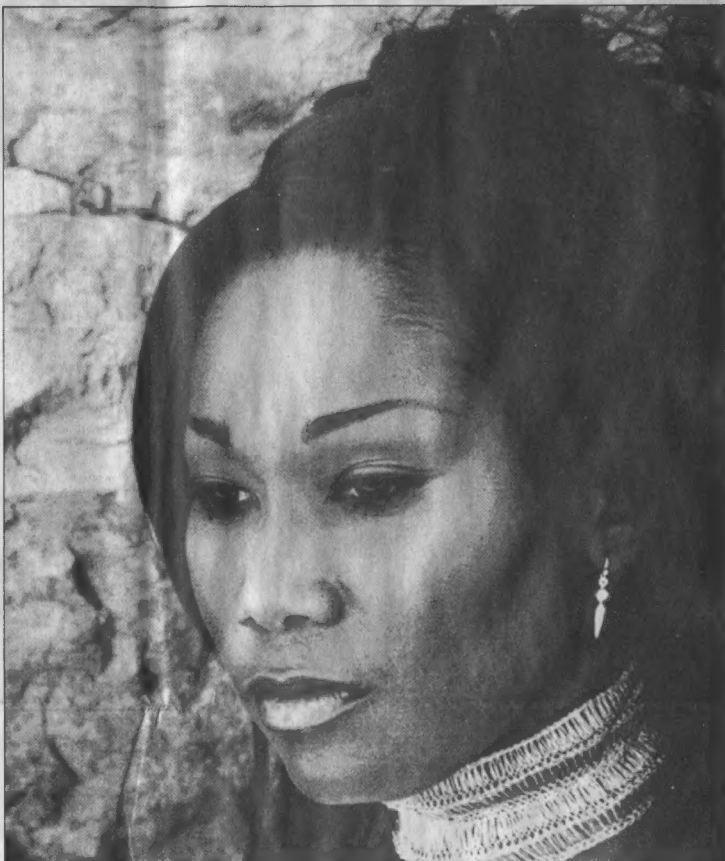
The global community has been greatly influenced and impacted by gospel music. This new millennium extravaganza salutes the finest in gospel music with a phenomenal line-up of celebrity talent set to perform and present. Gospel legend Bobby Jones, gospel artist Donnie McClurkin and gospel diva Vicki Winans will host the 2000 Stellar Gospel Music Awards. They will be joined on stage with incredible performances by Yolanda Adams, Richard Smallwood & Vision, Gospel Gangstaz, Kim Burrell, Larnar Campbell and Spirit of Praise, Five Young Men, Kirk Whalum featuring Paul Jackson Jr., Mighty Clouds of Joy, Nancey Jackson, Mississippi Mass Choir and New Direction.

This year's star-studded presenters will include Kirk Franklin, Dottie Peoples, Gladys Knight, Spiritual Prices, Anetia, Dawkins & Dawkins and Luther Barnes. Also included in this year's celebrity line-up will be Mathew St. Patrick ("All My Children"), Terr J. Vaughn ("The Steve Harvey Show"), Elise Neal ("The Hughleys"), Trina McGee-Davis ("Boy Meets World"), Dennis Haybert ("Now & Again"), inspirational author and speaker Iyanla Vanzant and Edafe Blackmon ("For Your Love").

"The Fifteenth Annual Stellar Gospel Awards" is executive produced by Don Jackson, produced by Barbara Wilson and directed by Chuck Vinson for Central City Productions. Founded in 1970 by Don Jackson, Chicago-based Central City Productions is a distributor of original programming to television and cable networks. Other television specials and education projects presented by Central City Production include "Celebrate the Soul of American Music," "MBR: The Minority Business Report," "Road to Success," "Family Night," "Know Your Heritage," and the NAACP "ACT-SO."



Bobby Jones

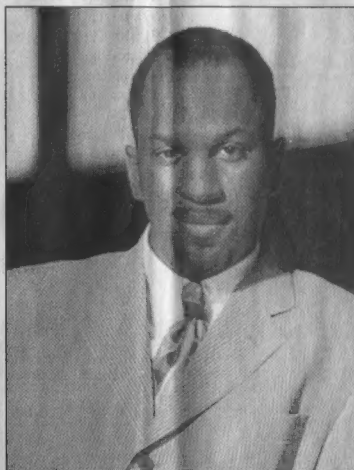


Yolanda Adams



Dennis Haybert

*Stellar
Awards*



Donnie McClurkin



Gladys Knight



Vicki Winans



Iyanla Vanzant

Heartbeat

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

JERSEY CITY — The Jersey Medical Center hosts a support group meeting for breast cancer survivors 6 p.m. (201) 915-2000

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center offers exercise classes 11:30 a.m. (908) 753-3566

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for parents who have children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7 p.m. (732) 745-9600

PARSIPPANY — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its Parsippany headquarters 12 p.m. 1-800-BLOOD-NJ

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center offers weight training classes 1:30 p.m. (908) 753-3566

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people who have lost loved ones 7 p.m. (732) 745-9600

WEST ORANGE — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its West Orange headquarters 12 p.m. 1-800-BLOOD-NJ

NORTH PLAINFIELD — The American Red Cross of Greater Union Chapter and Plainfield hosts a blood drive at Holy Cross Episcopal Church 9 a.m. (908) 353-2500

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

WEST ORANGE — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its West Orange headquarters 8 a.m. 1-800-BLOOD-NJ

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

WEST ORANGE — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its West Orange headquarters 2 p.m. 1-800-BLOOD-NJ

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center offers a exercise class 11:30 a.m. (908) 753-3566

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital offers a course on babyproofing for teenage boys and girls through Dec. 29 11:15 p.m. (732) 745-9600

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for men dealing with prostate cancer 7 p.m. (732) 745-9600

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

PARSIPPANY — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its Parsippany headquarters 12 p.m. 1-800-BLOOD-NJ

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center offers a weight training class 1:30 p.m. (908) 753-3566

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for caregivers of cancer patients 7 p.m. (732) 745-9600

EDISON — The American Red Cross of Greater Union Chapter and Plainfield hosts a blood drive at the Edison Firehouse 2 p.m. (908) 353-2500

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

PARSIPPANY — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its Parsippany headquarters 12 p.m. 1-800-BLOOD-NJ

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center offers a exercise class 1:30 p.m. (908) 753-3566

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for parents with children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 5:30 p.m. (732) 745-9600

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

WEST ORANGE — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its West Orange headquarters 12 p.m. 1-800-BLOOD-NJ

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people who have lost loved ones 7 p.m. (732) 745-9600

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center offers a weight training class 1:30 p.m. (908) 753-3566

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people dependent on nicotine 5:30 p.m. (732) 745-9600

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

NEWARK — St. James Hospital hosts a blood drive at the hospital conference room 12 p.m. (973) 462-2675

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

CRANFORD — Union County College's Department of Continuing Education offers training for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) Call (908) 709-7501 for information

Low income workers, families can get free eye exams

TRENTON — Low-income workers and their families will now have access to free eye exams through a program called VISION USA.

As part of a nationwide program, members of the New Jersey Optometric Association are donating their services to provide comprehensive eye exams in March to qualifying New Jersey residents.

To qualify for the free eye care, persons must have a job or live in a household where there is one working member;

have no health insurance of any kind, have income below an established level based on household size, and have had no eye examination within two years.

People can obtain application forms by writing to VISION USA, 243 N. Lombard Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141. Completed forms must be postmarked by January 25, 1999, according to Richard Favreau, O.D., Franklin, New Jersey, the VISION USA coordinator for New Jersey. Applications will

also be screened for eligibility by phone but only from January 2 to 31. The number to call then is 1-800-766-4466. Phone lines will be open weekdays from 7 AM to 9 PM (CST).

"Unfortunately, many low-income working people without health insurance simply cannot afford eye exams and they don't qualify for government assistance," Dr. Favreau said. "Without preventive care, small vision problems could escalate to more costly and potentially serious conditions later on in life."

Nationwide, approximately 175,000 people have been served in the first five years of the VISION USA program. Nearly nine out of 10 have had one or more eye health or vision problems.

"There's no doubt in our minds that many people in low-income families are being held back because they can't see well enough to do their jobs or to learn in school," said Dr. Favreau. "We want to help by giving these people access to professional eye care."

Aging hearts need social support

SALT LAKE CITY — Older people who lack social support may be at an increased risk of heart disease, new research shows. Scientists from the University of Utah's Department of Psychology and Health Psychology Program in Salt Lake City studied 67 women and men to learn how cardiovascular health is related to age and social support.

"We found that social support moderated age-related differ-

ences in blood pressure and age predicted higher resting blood pressure, but only for individuals with low social support," said Bert Uchino, Ph.D., head of the study.

In this study, 36 women and 31 men were recruited from the community. They ranged in age from 20 to 70, with an average of 38.3 years. None had histories of heart problems or psychological disorders. Smokers and heavy drinkers were excluded.

Researchers measured participants' blood pressures and administered a 40-item questionnaire designed to reveal levels of social support. They completed surveys relating to neuroticism, extraversion, aggression, depression, stress, life satisfaction, and their health behaviors.

The scientists report the results of their study in the latest issue of *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*.

Age clearly predicted increased blood pressure, as

measured both in resting systolic and diastolic forces. However, the relationship held true only in individuals who were low in social support. People who were approximately 50 years and older with plenty of social outlets averaged about 63 for young people, 74 for older people. In individuals with strong social support, the average for younger participants was 67, for older ones 68.

None of the other variables revealed how social support prolonged the cardiovascular youthfulness of the middle-aged and older adults. The answer to this question is critical for designing interventions especially because even slight decreases in blood pressure can lower the heart disease risk.

NEWARK — Recently the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey provided a grant of \$49,000 to the new Center for Family Life at Saint James A.M.E. Church in Newark.

Dr. Mark S. Hochberg, president of the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, presented the grant to Rev. William Watley, pastor of St. James A.M.E., during a ribbon cutting ceremony and tour. The Center for Family Life is a result of a collaborative effort by St. James A.M.E. Church and the Saint Barnabas Health Care System. The clinic will assist the medically underserved in the Newark area. During the ceremony, the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey highlighted the many progressive health programs that it has funded in Newark community.

The center is one of the first inner city community based primary care centers to use the private practice model rather than the clinical model.

For more information about the center call (973) 635-8200.



(L-R) Doctor's Bootstaylor, Gomez and Page saved the life of baby Pinholster. An innovative in-utero surgical therapy was executed by Regina Lynch-Hudson.

"Our data indicated that women not receiving the prenatal care they need," said Dr. Bootstaylor, one of the partners in Atlanta Perinatal Associates. The innovative five-person, Georgia-based bilingual group specializes in high-risk maternal fetal medicine utilizing a newly developed application of telemedicine services. It is technology that could revolutionize global mortality but is mainly utilized in academic institutions for research. It is made available to patients by few perinatal practices in the world.

Because of their commitment to provide Whelan-like care to patients who suffer pregnancy complications, Perinatologists Bootstaylor, Dexter Page and Kevin Gomez jointly decided to invest in the futuristic technology, despite the over \$1,000,000 cost.

"Most practices grow the procurement of such technology because of the cost, the lack of technical skill necessary to correctly interpret the software driven technology, and the lack of a network of offices in order to disseminate medical information acquired from the technology," explained Bootstaylor.

The practice's telemedicine capability allows Atlanta Perinatal Associates to perform ultrasounds from a remote site, depicting abnormalities at birth that might otherwise go undetected.

"The technologically superior ability to monitor high risk pregnancies from a remote site could change the infant mortality rate in developing nations worldwide, as well as rural areas throughout the nation where such technology is not available," Dr. Bootstaylor said.

The pioneering perinatal team is saving the lives of infants utilizing 3-D ultrasound, first trimester screenings for genetic problems, in-utero surgical therapy and other cutting edge advancements. In cases where termination would otherwise be advised, the doctors are delivering miracle babies. One such case is that of baby Palmer Pinholster. When Dana Pinholster went to Atlanta Perinatal Associates she was five months pregnant, and a diagnosis showed an accumulation of fluid in the chest, abdomen and skin of the fetus, known as hydrops fetalis. It is a potentially lethal condition. Termination of the pregnancy was recommended by Pinholster's pri-

mary care OB-GYN, but the expectant mother desired to carry the pregnancy to term. "The baby almost assuredly would have died without innovative therapy," said Dr. Kevin Gomez.

The perinatal team of Atlanta Perinatal Associates proceeded to insert a shunt — commonly known as a ventriculoperitoneal shunt — into the infant's head, chest to alleviate fluid-build up, which can create heart failure. Over the course of three months a total of six shunts were placed in the fetus, through a succession of tedious surgeries. Over time there was a reduction in fluid, allowing the pregnancy to persevere. The fluid reaccumulated at 36-37 weeks of pregnancy, according to the doctors. An elective induction of labor resulted in what the doctor's described as "a beautiful baby girl, with no residual scars or punctures to the baby's chest."

Invasive fetal surgeries, or in-utero surgical therapies like that used to save baby Pinholster, whereby the fetus is reached by entering the mother's abdomen and proceeding through the uterus, brands Atlanta Perinatal Associates forerunners in their field.

"This is the one field where technology can be applied to the vast segment of the population whereas costly procedures like in vitro fertilization (IVF), are usually reserved for those in the Ivory Towers," said Dr. Page.

He estimated that some 20 percent of the population will encounter some prenatal complication. Without appropriate specialty care many families will terminate pregnancies while others will incur neonatal costs in excess of \$200,000.

Not all conditions can be corrected, but proper counseling in the face of congenital problems is a primary focus of the practice.

The demographic reach of Atlanta Perinatal Associates is international in scope. The three trailblazing perinatologists say that patients literally fly in from specialized care from as far away as Italy, as well as underserved rural areas throughout the Southeast. Approximately 70 percent of the patients are African American, 20 percent are Caucasian, and the remaining 10 percent are Asian, Hispanic and other.

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Music Reviews



Q-Tip Amplified (Arista)
Rox 15

Many might listen to this album and see a formerly repressed Q-Tip, one that was held back in part by the music industry heads who A Tribe Called Quest mischaracterized as an "uncolored record executive" are an idea.

The other thing holding Q-Tip back could have been his reputation of his former group members, respecting the fact that there is no "I" in Q-Tip.

But now it's a different set up, a different record label (Q-Tip is now on Arista Records, a new place, not whose roster includes Whitney Houston, Deborah Cox, Monica, The Bad Religion, TLC, Usher and many more stellar acts) and a more expressive personal sound. This sound embodies a new way of strumming percussion, a new, more laid-back influence tracks that complement the more serious side of Q-Tip's music.

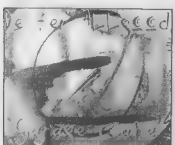
Listeners will find a more colorful sound in the first single, "Vibrant Things," a bass-heavy, strumming melody.



potential of joining his elevated personality with the vibrant persona of a woman.

Listeners who did not appreciate A.T.Q.'s more low-key, mellow, and laid-back sound, and who find the main stream they found in N.T. featuring Busta Rhymes who does his part harsh sounds, and a piano tickled music that blends nicely with the rhythms of "The Abstract Poet" and the gritty magnetism of Busta Rhymes.

Other standouts on the album include Q-Tip's collaboration with Korn in "End of Road," "Higher," which will take listeners back to the Tribe days, and the bassy "Let's Ride."



Dexter Allgood Garage Cafe All-Good Productions

A fireplace. That special someone. A chilled glass of chardonnay. "Garage Cafe," the latest release by pianist Dexter Allgood. Lay back, relax, and get your groove on - whatever that might be. Allgood's CD will give the evening a special ummmph! Mellow, with a sho nuff mix of funk melodies that accentuate Allgood's versatile style. "Son's No," with its syncopated and strumming guitar licks will bring out the bop in you. While "Fifth Avenue" will take you on a delightful stroll through New York City. Allgood is all good, when it comes to making the music feel good!

B.B. King, Bland sing the blues at NJPAC performance



B.B. King

By Rob Williams
Staff Writer

NEWARK — B.B. King's performance was a rollercoaster of emotions.

His hearty, burly voice dug notes from the bottom of his heart and came up embodied with the strength of the man that he is. His face paled fiercely side to side, his eyes squinted closed, his body swaying to and fro.

At times he raised his fist in the air and declared "I told you I'm from the old school. I like to shake my boogie" and proceeded to swivel his hips in a Chuck Berry-like manner.

Helping him was his beloved guitar Lucille, who sung the notes like a faithful partner, as they took a roaring audience shouting praise to this legend of blues music on the rollercoaster ride with them.

And King did this all from a small wooden stage.

It was this electrifying performance that a capacity-filled Prudential Hall saw December 11 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Promoting his latest album "B.B. King On The Volume," King performed songs from this

album and from the over fifty other albums he has recorded since he began to sing the blues during the late 1940s.

King, known for his comedic storyteller stage presence, had a great interaction with the audience. He often said how he could not see the audience when he wanted to thank them or interact with them, and soon as the words fell out his mouth the house lights would come up. King would cruse the audience with his eyes and his hand covering the light blocking his vision to get a better look at the audience who screamed "we love you" and "one more song."

Some songs King performed included "The Thrill Is Gone," "I Know 'Gotta Love Somebody," and "Please Accept My Love," moving the audience to at times singing along. At one point King jumped out his seat and "bowed" with his fist in the air to the song "Is The Love Good?"

King, 74, shared interesting stories about some situations that motivated his music. He talked about the "lemon" incident of a song about a local man in King's native Mississippi who would deliver ice (and pleasure) to many housewives, when made the men in the neighborhood jealous. He also talked

about his band (which includes nephew Walter Ryley King), and how they have visited 88 countries and performed over 242 days a year, with the biggest crowd turnouts in Beijing and Thailand.

Prefacing King's performance was one of the few people today that could match his talent. Bobby "Blues" Bland and his band Between his trademark growl, and the way he "shhh" his band to play low and his Aaron Neville like voice, Bland's affect on the crowd was nothing less than WOW! Standing nearly motionless, the crowd went wild as they listened to his witty lyrics and side comments. During the show the audience had a few laughs, including amusing comments like the one made to an audience member, when he was sipping a beverage out of a plastic container. One person asked Bland what was in the container? And he answered "wouldn't you like to know," but later replied it's cranberry juice, but it used to be Johnny Walker. Rd.

Bland sung classics like "Share Your Love With Me," "Pity The Fool," "Your Gonna Make Love Somebody Else," and B.I. Witherspoon's "Ant No Sun, Ah-ee When She's Gone."

MUSIC NOTES

Lucy Pearl to release highly anticipated album

The new group Lucy Pearl comprised of Raphael Saadiq, former lead singer of Tony! Toni! Toné!, Dawn Robinson, formerly of En Vogue, and Ali Shaheed Muhammad, former DJ and producer for A Tribe Called Quest, are scheduled to release its album in March on Pook Records/Beyoncé label.

The group announced its formation last month at an online press conference from New York City.

latest release "The Roots Don't Move," will be all that fans will have until the group gets together.

In a MTV interview, Saadiq said the group would release their first album in seven years. "Questlove will be the name for D'Angelo's band Black Thought is working on a name called "Brooklyn Babylon." Malik B will pursue his project. Hub plans to write music for some upcoming films and Kamal looks to go on doing some producing. As for Scratch, he will be busy performing in a beatbox quartet.

Kelly Price taps Montell Jordan, R. Kelly for new album

Kelly Price, known last for her background vocals for the Bad Boy camp, is getting ready to release her second album following her platinum debut "Soul



Montell Jordan of A Woman's Worth. Emerging talents like Montell Jordan, R. Kelly, Jermaine Dupri, and producer Carlos and Diddy, are looking to have the album released some

time in the middle of the year on her new label, Def Soul/Def Jam Records.

Price is also busy with her new record label, Big Mama Records.

The Atlanta-based record company will be distributed by Elektra Entertainment Group and already has two artists signed to it.

One is Sasha, a 17-year-old female singer from New York and the other is Victor, and R&B Latino singer.

WBGO to host Holiday Programs

Debbie Kirkland presents Holiday Music with the Stars on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, 6-7 p.m. Music from Shirley Caesar, Mahalia Jackson, James Cleveland and more.

An encore program hosted by the late Joe Williams in 1997, on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. will feature tunes from Elaine Elias Monty Alexander, and Mulgrave Miller.

Dianne Reeves hosts the best holiday tunes from Christ past on Christmas at 5 p.m. in honor of Jazz Piano Christmas. Twelfth Anniversary Music tri-n



Prince Photo by Larry Busacca

Lenny Kravitz to perform at Prince special

Prince has announced that Lenny Kravitz will perform with him at the New Year's Eve pay-per-view special "Rave Un2 The Year 2000" at Prince's Paisley Park studios in Minneapolis.

No songs have been chosen yet, but some speculate Kravitz's remake of Prince's song "Mr. Cab Driver" off his "Let Love Rule" album will be one of them.

Others scheduled to appear are Larry Graham, Marvin Staples and The Time. The event will be carried on In Demand Entertainment and is scheduled to air December 31 at 10 p.m.

Earth, Wind & Fire to join Hall of Fame

CLEVELAND — Legendary R&B group Earth, Wind & Fire will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame class of 2000 along with James Taylor, Bonnie Raitt, Lovin' Spoonful, and The Moonglows.

The Cleveland-based institution will also honor singer Nat King Cole and jazz great Billie Holiday in its "Early Influences" category. Arista Records CEO Clive Davis will also be honored as the non-performer honoree.

In order to be eligible for induction, performers must have had an album released at least more than 25 years ago. Some of the nominees who did not make the cut included KISS, AC/DC, Hot Chocolate, KC and the Sunshine Band, Robert Palmer and The Residents.

Black Sabbath was also nominated but lead singer Ozzy Osbourne asked for the group to be removed from the list because the industry and the media nominated them, not the fans.

The ceremony will take place at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City on March 6. VH1 plans to broadcast the event in March.



Earth, Wind & Fire

Photo by Peter Pagan

2000 AFRO-UNITY CALENDARS

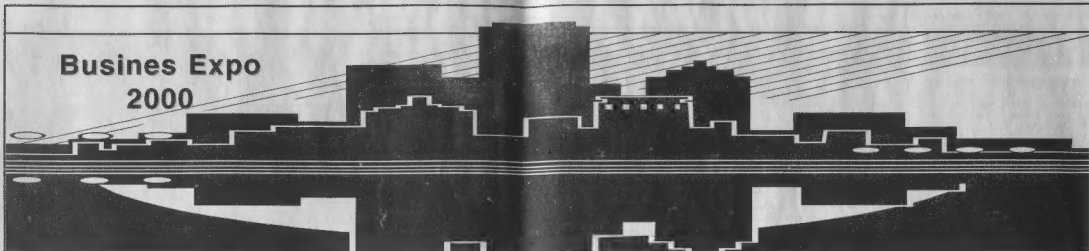


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A dying sport: Sports

It's becoming increasingly difficult to watch professional sports today. The devotion of sports fans into sickly conceived, highly scripted Hollywood productions threatens to undermine the fundamental appeal and attraction of sports. At its core, sporting events have historically provided an escape to fans from the trials, tribulations and predictability of everyday life. Most of our lives revolve around some sort of routine or another. For most of us, on Monday through Friday, we wake up to the sound of an alarm clock, we shower, eat breakfast, kiss the spouse, go to work and return home and prepare to repeat the same routine the next day.

Greg Moore

Sports used to provide fans the rare type of high drama which could at its best, excite, inspire and even enlighten. Magic vs. Bird excited us. Ali vs. Frazier inspired us. Ali, Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens, and Arthur Ashe by virtue of their athletic excellence and social contributions enlightened us.

Who in sports today, yes, excites or enlightens us today? Although sports will never become a surrogate for a good church or any other more revered source of inspiration, sporting events are indeed provided far fewer truly inspiring moments. Remember Jordan absolutely destroying the Utah Jazz during the 1997 NBA finals despite battling severe flu symptoms and nausea? Truly inspiring. Remember O.J. Simpson scampering in the snow against the New York Jets in his quest to become the NFL's first 2000 yard rusher? Inspiring. Do you recall Willis Reed limping out at Madison Square Garden to emotionally propel the Knicks to an NBA championship? Do you remember Wilt vs. Russell, Ali vs. Frazier, Magic vs. Bird, Connors vs. Borg or the Celtics vs. the Lakers? These individuals and teams were all parties to epic rivalries or dramatic moments which encouraged fans to believe that perhaps, if they too pushed themselves beyond their self-perceived limits, they could also overcome a nemesis, a tormentor or a profound life challenge, and emerge victorious.

Has sports outlived its role to provide those types of moments or those types of larger than life figures? The jury's still out on this question but the evidence is clear. Fewer professional sports events the last great sporting event you've seen. The type of event, which you anticipated, who in advance, and discussed and savored for weeks after its occurrence. It's truly a challenge.

Cite the last heroic performance you've witnessed by an athlete. I mean, how many Tyson fights can boxing survive until nobody cares anymore? The real challenge however confronts the proprietors of a sporting industry whose efforts to extract every ounce of profit has resulted in a product which is more stilted, contrived, and anti-climatic than ever before. Many of the sterile, tasteless Madison Avenue concoctions that is professional sports today are about as inspiring as the WWF, only much less dramatic. Can sports be saved? Maybe.

And for what it's worth here are a few suggestions which the industry should consider if they want to avoid killing the essential spirit of professional athletics:

- Stop allowing greedy owners to move teams from city to city in search of more profits. It's taking a toll on fan loyalty and natural geographical rivalries.
- Don't allow sneaker conglomerates anywhere near high school sports. They whisk away great neighborhood talent, direct them to private schools in the middle of nowhere, and cause kids to become bored after receiving so much attention so early.
- Stop attempting to stifle the natural expression of athletes during spring events. Trash talking is a part of the game. Just ask Ali.
- Stop allowing large corporations to purchase teams in an effort to diversify their portfolios. Cablevision, Turner Communications, and NewsCorp bought the Knicks & Rangers, the Braves and the Dodgers respectively, just to supplement programming. They could care less about the history of these teams.

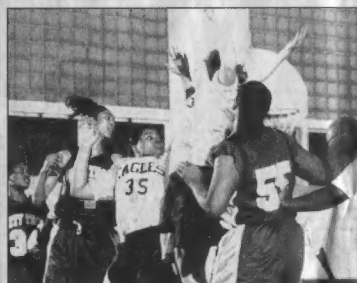
Until next week, Peace
Questions and comments should be directed to Gregory.Moore@excite.com

President Clinton congratulates Serena Williams & Andre Agassi



WASHINGTON — President Clinton recently met with U.S. Open Champions Andre Agassi and Serena Williams and congratulated them on their phenomenal success at this year's tournament. Serena, along with her sister Venus, have taken the tennis world by storm with dynamic play and competitiveness on the court. Agassi has had the same impact as well after years of mishaps professional and personally. This year he won the French Open and was a runner-up at Wimbledon.

LaRae Gunn is named player of the week



LaRae Gunn (#35) was voted player of the week at College of St. Elizabeth.

MORRISTOWN — After completing the first week of play, sophomore power-forward and Newark native LaRae Gunn (#35) was recently named the College of Saint Elizabeth Eagles player of the week.

During the first four games she

averaged 19.5 points, scoring both in the paint and three-point land. She also pulled down 64 rebounds (16 per game) and shot 41.5 percent from the free throw line.

Her efforts have pushed the Eagles to the best start in recent history: three straight wins after a

season opening loss. LaRae regularly shares the court with her twin sister Tenaysha (#14), who also plays forward for the Eagles.

According to Coach Patrick Carter, her drive and determination spread through the team when she is in a groove. She catches passes that would get past most players and grabs rebounds that should belong to the other team. She is a force on the floor... a powerful force.

Kean University receives \$500K donation for baseball stadium



UNION — Kean University alumnus and former Kean baseball player Jim Hynes presents a \$500,000 check to the University for renovation to the school's baseball stadium. In his honor, the University will name the reconstructed facility the "Jim Hynes '63 Baseball Stadium." Pictured left to right: Kenneth L. Estabrook, Esq., Kean University's Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Donna Meade, Executive Director of Kean University Foundation; William Shiebler, President of Kean University Foundation; Hynes and Dr. Ronald Appibbaum, President of Kean University.

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Revised indictment against IBF founder adds tax charges

By Jeffrey Gold

NEWARK (AP) — The founder of the IBF is in more legal trouble.

Robert W. Lee Sr., accused last month of taking bribes to rig his organization's rankings of boxers, was indicted recently on charges he failed to report that money on his income tax returns.

Lee, who took a leave of absence as IBF president recently to prepare his bribery defense, maintains his innocence, said his lawyer, Gerald Krovatin.

Krovatin declined to comment further because he had not yet seen the six tax counts added to a 32-count indictment charging conspiracy, racketeering and money laundering.

The indictment and a government lawsuit that followed accuse Lee and others of taking \$338,000 in bribes to change the rankings of the East Orange-based IBF, one of boxing's major governing organizations. Rankings play a big role in determining fights and purses for boxers.

The tax counts do not specify the amount of unreported income Lee had in the years 1993-98, only that his returns did not include "bribes paid by boxing promoters and managers and others, in order to alter rankings of particular boxers and to provide others favorable treatment."

Lee's highest reported income

during those years was \$288,402 for 1994. The lowest was 1998, \$169,853, the only year that his income dipped below \$251,000.

Lee filed joint returns for himself and his wife, the indictment said. She does not work, Krovatin said.

An IBF vice president, Hiawatha Knight of Detroit, is serving as president during Lee's absence.

The superseding indictment by a federal grand jury here also adds a tax count against Lee's son, Robert W. Lee Jr., 38, of Scotch Plains, accusing him of not including bribes on his 1994 return, when he declared \$27,972 in income.

The younger Lee, who worked for the IBF as "liaison to the president," is also on leave.

As part of their lawsuit against Lee and the IBF, federal prosecutors are seeking to install a court-appointed monitor to rehabilitate the IBF. The group opposes the move. If approved, it would be the first time a monitor was imposed on a sports organization.

Lee founded the IBF in 1983, pledging to bring fairness to the rankings. The IBF gets a share of purses for sanctioning fights, agreeing that the winner will be its champion in a given weight class, for example.

The indictment said seven promoters and managers were involved, as well as 23 boxers.